

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIVES OF FBI SPECIAL AGENTS DANIEL ALFIN AND LAURA SCHWARTZENBERGER

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to honor the lives of two fallen FBI agents, Daniel Alfin and Laura Schwarzenberger.

While executing a federal warrant in a child exploitation investigation, Special Agent Daniel Alfin and Special Agent Laura Schwarzenberger were shot and killed in the line of duty in Sunrise, Florida.

They died protecting our most vulnerable citizens and the community they loved.

This was sadly the FBI's deadliest day since the tragic events on 9/11. It has also been more than 30 years since two agents were gunned down together in the line of duty.

A 16-year veteran of the FBI, Special Agent Laura Schwarzenberger's specialty was pursuing crimes against children.

Her work with the FBI's Miami Field Office's Innocent Images National Initiative led to the arrests of those involved in the exploitation of children and "sextortion." She leaves behind a husband and two children.

Special Agent Daniel Alfin was a 12-year veteran of the FBI. He was a veteran agent who led the investigation into a dark web site called Playpen, one of the country's largest child pornography operations. He also leaves behind a wife and one child.

While I did not have the good fortune of knowing these two Special Agents, I know this—these were two brave individuals taken from us and we lost them way too soon.

These were incredible parents, ripped from their families before their time. They were extraordinary public servants trying to make our community a safer place to raise our families.

To their families and loved ones, I struggle to find words that can offer solace and comfort in their time of distress.

The great poet William Wordsworth once said, "Not without hope we suffer and we mourn."

Perhaps he meant that we find hope in the belief that our thoughts and prayers will in time heal their families, and in the hope and belief that the children of these fallen heroes will grow up knowing that their parents made this sacrifice to make their world and our world a better place.

Agents Alfin and Schwarzenberger put their lives on the line every day to make us safer.

We lost them to a senseless act of violence by someone with a total disregard for the lives of others.

We grieve their loss not only to the community they served, but to the families and loved ones they leave behind.

They made the ultimate sacrifice, and we will be forever grateful.

ROE V. WADE

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 48th anniversary of the tragic Roe versus Wade Supreme Court Decision. That fateful decision has ended the loss of over 62 million unborn babies' lives.

Consider that while America is the land of opportunity, more than 62 million unborn Americans were given no opportunity to pursue the incredible opportunities our great nation affords.

At home and abroad, the unborn are under attack. Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle disastrously intend to burden the consciences of millions of Americans by forcing them to use their hard-earned tax dollars to subsidize abortion.

I'm also deeply concerned by the current administration's decision to rescind the Mexico City Policy and instead force taxpayers to fund abortions overseas.

In fact, recent polling shows that three-quarters of Americans want significant restrictions on abortion.

If we are truly representing the American people, we will work as a Congress to pass abortion restrictions here in these halls.

Until that happens, I will continue fighting tirelessly to defend the sanctity of unborn lives.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND JOBS PARITY ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Mr. SABLAN Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Employment Services and Jobs Parity Act. This legislation would make long overdue amendments to the Wagner-Peyser Act to include the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa.

The Wagner-Peyser Act established the Employment Service which brings together employers looking for workers and individuals looking for work. Despite participating in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act programs and operating an American Job Center, the Marianas and American Samoa are not eligible for the employment services formula grant that is currently awarded to all other states and insular areas.

In January 2017, the 902 report was submitted to Congress. Both the Special Representatives of the Marianas and the President recommended that the Department of Interior work cooperatively with DOL to extend the Wagner-Peyser Act to the Marianas. But, it will

be up to Congress to act so that all Americans can get the help they need to develop the skills necessary to enter in-demand jobs and career paths.

With widespread unemployment due to the coronavirus, the annual Wagner-Peyser grant would provide timely support to the Marianas and American Samoan workforce through skills assessment, career guidance, and referrals to training for job seekers.

Now is the time to make things right and ensure parity for all Americans. This bipartisan bill is important to the workers in the Marianas and American Samoa. The Representative from American Samoa, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, is an original co-sponsor. I urge all my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF LLOYD ELLEFSON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor World War II veteran Lloyd Ellefson as he celebrates his 100th birthday.

Mr. Ellefson grew up in Appleton, Wisconsin on his family's farm. In 1942, his 21st birthday, Lloyd registered for the draft and joined the U.S. Army. Lloyd was stationed at Fort Sill in Oklahoma, where he trained as an auto mechanic with the 93rd Armored Field Artillery.

Lloyd served under General George Patton in both France and Italy during WWII. He was first stationed in Naples, Italy where he remembers being "boomed" by the German Air Force. Lloyd's service then brought him to the shores of Southern France where he recalls seeing all the ships waiting in the calm waters of the Bay before the fighting began. Lloyd was the only mechanic sent to the D-Day invasion, and he and his battalion received a Bronze Arrowhead for their service and bravery in the invasion.

Beloved husband, father, grandfather and soldier, Lloyd is a tribute to the "Greatest Generation" and a grateful nation and state thank him for his service.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in applauding Lloyd Ellefson for his service in WWII and wishing him a happy and healthy 100th birthday.

HONORING PAM RUDD

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Pam Rudd of Hopkinsville, Kentucky for her six decades of public service and enormous contributions to the betterment of her community. In 1971, Ms. Rudd started working

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

for Hopkinsville Parks and Recreation part-time while serving as a physical education teacher. Upon her retirement from the school system in 1977, Ms. Rudd worked full-time as program coordinator for Hopkinsville Parks and Recreation. While at the department, she had served under nine directors, including a stint of her own as interim director from 2005 to 2007. As program coordinator, Ms. Rudd has played an integral role in the department's transition from a city-county entity to the city-managed Hopkinsville Parks and Recreation Department. She also played a lead role in the design and planning of Hopkinsville's award-winning Tie-Breaker Baseball Softball complex in 2001, which would go on to serve many children in the region. Pam's years of service came to a summit when Ms. Rudd was recognized as a Kentucky Recreation and Parks Society Fellow in 2015. She was also fittingly selected for the Kentucky Recreation and Parks Society Hall of Fame in 2019. I am honored to share the exceptional history of Ms. Rudd's six-decade career. I want to thank Ms. Rudd for being an extraordinary leader to her community and the 1st Congressional District of Kentucky.

IN HONOR OF MARINETTE F.
"MARI" BARB

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 4, 2021

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness but great respect that I take this time to remember Marinette F. "Mari" Barb of Williamsburg, VA. Mari passed away on January 20, 2021 after more than a century of life. Mari bravely served the United States for many years, and her life after service was equally memorable and noteworthy.

Mari was born on September 16, 1919 in a small town in the south of France. Two decades later, she joined the French Underground when her home country was occupied by Nazi Germany. During this time, Mari worked with the O.S.S., the predecessor of the CIA. Mari constantly risked her life, helping Allied soldiers and airmen who found themselves behind enemy lines. Using forged Algerian identification papers, Mari saved the lives of countless soldiers by smuggling them back to Allied territory.

Immediately after the war, Mari met her husband, James, while he was in France with the U.S. Army. She moved to the United States with Jim and was made an American citizen by an Act of Congress. A career in intelligence took Mari and Jim to the Pacific Island of Saipan, on two tours in Vietnam, and took Mari to Hong Kong for an extended stay. Mari and Jim made frequent returns to Camp Peary in Williamsburg between overseas assignments.

Once they retired, Mari and Jim moved to Williamsburg, VA permanently. There they became staples of the community, frequenting trivia nights and live music venues. In addition to retiring from work, Mari retired from cooking, so Mari and Jim could always be found at one of their favorite restaurants. Mari is survived by three sisters and many family members spread across both France and the United States. Madam Speaker, I ask you rise

with me in memory of Marinette F. Barb. She will be profoundly missed, but her memory lives on in her friends and family.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER AND
LEGACY OF HAMILTON COUNTY
JUDGE ETHNA COOPER

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Judge Ethna Cooper for her many years of service to Hamilton County and its residents.

Judge Cooper was appointed to the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas by Governor Taft in 2003.

In addition to her service on the Court, Judge Cooper founded and has served as the Presiding Judge of the Hamilton County Felony Veterans' Treatment Court since 2011.

This court was the first Felony Veterans' Treatment Court in the United States, addressing the issues that led to a veteran's contact with the criminal justice system.

Judge Cooper has served Hamilton County with diligence and honor.

I want to thank Judge Cooper again and wish her the best in the future.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
DEBORAH MOSELEY

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Deborah "Debbie" Moseley, the Executive Director of The Bridge Over Troubled Waters in Pasadena, Texas. Commonly referred to as "The Bridge," this organization has assisted men, women, and children affected by domestic and sexual violence or homelessness in southeastern Harris County, Texas. For thirty-four years, Debbie has served the organization as an advocate in the field of domestic and sexual violence.

Debbie began working as a volunteer at The Bridge in 1986 alongside her mother and grandmother. A year later, she started working with The Bridge's children's programs on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. In 1988, Debbie began to work full-time at The Bridge as a Resident Advocate. Over the years, she has held many leadership positions in each of the different programs that The Bridge offers, including Shelter Coordinator, Resale Shop Coordinator, Non-Resident Director, and Advocacy Director. In 2003, Debbie was named the Executive Director and has served in that role ever since.

Under Debbie's leadership, The Bridge connected with community leaders and the community at-large, built a new location, and started Destiny Village—a long-term housing program for survivors of violence with disabilities and children. In addition, she has significantly increased the Bridge's share of funding granted by the Victims of Crime Act to provide critical support services to victims of domestic violence.

Debbie is a Licensed Social Worker and has dedicated her life to community and volunteer service. She serves on the boards of numerous community organizations such as: the Harris County Coordinating Council, the Texas Council on Family Violence, the Harris County Adult Fatality Review Team, the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, the Pasadena Police Academy, and the Bridges to Life prison ministry. She is also active in the New Hope Church of Pearland, the Pasadena Kiwanis, the Bay Area Kiwanis, the Pasadena Rotary, the Salvation Army, and the Texas Invitational.

For her community and civic involvement, Debbie has received numerous recognitions including: the Governor's Victim Services Division "Pathfinder" Award in 2007, Debbie Moseley Day in Pasadena Texas, the Rotary Club's Paul Harris Fellow Award in 2010, Rotary Director of the Year in 2016, and the Stella Trimble Community Service Award in 2017.

In 1985, Debbie married the love of her life, Tom Moseley. Debbie is the mother to four children: John Miles of Burleson, Texas; Aaron Miles, also of Burleson; Derek Miles of League City; and Staff Sergeant Josh Moseley, who is stationed as a United States Marine Corps recruiter in Arlington, Texas. Debbie and Tom are the proud grandparents of eight grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Debbie Moseley for her lifetime of dedicated service to the survivors of domestic and sexual violence and wish her the very best during her well-deserved retirement.

CAPTAIN DAVID SAGEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain David Sagel of the Westminster Fire Department who passed away on January 24, 2021 after courageously battling work-related cancer for more than a year and a half.

Captain Sagel served in the Westminster Fire Department for 34 years, in roles as a firefighter and engineer to lieutenant and captain. Throughout his career, Captain Sagel was best known for his passion for community service. In his off-duty time, he instituted and led a foster home renovation program where he worked with Adams and Jefferson Counties to identify foster homes in need of repairs and recruited the help of other fire department members and local businesses to assist in renovating them at no cost to the families. For many years, he served as the organizer for the "Hot Times KOOL Cars" event in conjunction with KOOL 105.1 FM, which was an annual car show that raised money for Children's Hospital of Colorado.

Captain Sagel's passing during Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness Month is an important reminder to redouble Congress' efforts to prevent occupational cancers of firefighters and invest in additional healthcare research and development of new safety equipment to protect firefighters as they work to protect our communities.

Captain Sagel was a beloved and devoted husband and a loving father. He was a master craftsman who loved woodworking and restoring cars and tractors. He spent his free time

fishing with his boys and father, traveling the world with his wife and close friends, and making a mess in his barn.

Captain Sagel is survived by his wife, Pam, and his two sons Spenser and Austin. I appreciate his lifetime of service to our community.

2021 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Monday I had the opportunity to announce my 2021 Legislative Agenda by hosting with my wife Roxane, press conferences across the Second District of South Carolina in West Columbia, Aiken, North Augusta, Barnwell, with presentations in Orangeburg and Lexington. My legislative priorities for this year begin with defeating the pandemic by working with the Governor Henry McMaster to improve testing and ensure fast access to a safe vaccine. This year's agenda also focuses on creating jobs and economic growth by protecting 'Right to Work' laws in South Carolina and advocating for current and future missions at the Savannah River Site.

This year more than ever before it is important to promote conservative, limited government solutions. The 2021 agenda includes supporting a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution and supporting our police. I will also continue to promote peace through strength and ensure the security of our country, strengthen alliances for information and medical resource sharing, and support military families.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

ROE V. WADE

SPEECH OF

HON. JAKE LATURNER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Mr. LATURNER. Madam Speaker, this past January 22 marked the 48th anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision. Now more than ever, America must continue to unapologetically stand for the sanctity of all human life. As the representative of Kansas' Second Congressional District, my constituents can be assured that I will always protect pro-life values at home and in Washington. I promised that I would be a fearless pro-life advocate throughout my public service, and I will keep my word to those who elected me.

In Kansas, I am proud to put my full support behind the "Value Them Both Amendment" that recently passed the Kansas Legislature. Currently, there is a legal basis for an unrestricted, unlimited abortion access in Kansas due to the *Hodes & Nauser v. Schmidt* decision handed down by our liberal Kansas Supreme Court. The Value Them Both Amendment will allow for commonsense regulation on the abortion industry that protects babies and mothers. Thankfully, both the Kansas House and Senate passed the constitutional

amendment by a two-thirds vote. Now the voters of Kansas will have the final say during a statewide election in 2022, where I am confident Kansans will choose life.

I will always unapologetically defend the sanctity of all human life, especially the most vulnerable among us—the unborn. I promised that I would be a fearless pro-life advocate throughout my public service, and I will keep my word to those who elected me to serve in Congress. After being sworn into office on January 3rd, I immediately joined the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus as my first congressional caucus and cosponsored several key pieces legislation which would defund Planned Parenthood, prohibit any abortion after 20 weeks, and prohibit the use of federal tax dollars for abortion.

Despite all of this, we are already beginning to see the drastic consequences of the 2020 presidential election for the pro-life community. President Joe Biden is wasting no time to advance his radical pro-abortion agenda. The Biden administration announced that they intend to revoke the Mexico City Policy, which bans United States taxpayer funding to foreign organizations that provide abortions. President Biden and his Democrat counterparts will shamefully send Americans' hard-earned money to other countries with the intention of funding abortions—this is deeply wrong and sends a horrible message about our values to the rest of the world.

Unfortunately, it does not end there. President Biden also proudly campaigned on ending the Hyde Amendment, a bipartisan, pro-life public policy that has been in place for more than four decades that restricts federal funding for abortions. If you didn't know, President Biden had previously opposed taxpayer-funded abortion for nearly 50 years, until he decided to run for president and abandon his conviction on the issue. I pray that President Biden will appeal to his better angels and return to a commonsense support of the Hyde Amendment, especially if he truly wants to unite our country. Forcing American taxpayers to subsidize unrestricted, unlimited abortions will only further our divisions and isolate our fellow Americans.

We must reaffirm our commitment to defending the most vulnerable lives among us—the unborn. Pro-life Americans, especially pro-life Kansans, will not rest until innocent human life is protected from the abortion industry. Life will win.

DIVIDED FAMILIES REUNIFICATION ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the reintroduction of my Divided Families Reunification Act, and to raise the voices of families who have been separated for decades both across the DMZ and across the Pacific Ocean.

Over seventy years ago, millions of Koreans were plunged into a harrowing war that brought misery, death, and destruction to their lives. Since then, the war has been frozen by an armistice agreement—signed on July 27, 1953—that persists to today. The division of

the Korean Peninsula into South and North Korea separated millions of Koreans from their family members. Through the years, there have been some agreed upon reunions between South and North Koreans. For Korean Americans, however, there is no pathway for such reunions, as they have not been permitted to participate in these inter-Korean family reunions. Many of these Americans are in their 70s through 90s, and time is of the essence to be reunited with their families. I have had the honor to meet some of these divided Korean American family members, and it breaks my heart that their chance of a reunion with their loved ones grows less likely each day.

As a member of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee on the House Appropriations Committee, I am proud to have secured provisions in the Fiscal Year 2020 and 2021 accompanying reports that support the reunification of Korean Americans and their families in North Korea.

The unresolved status of the war continues to impact multiple generations of Korean Americans, particularly women, in myriad ways. All these years later, many survivors of the war are still haunted by their trauma. And younger generations who are responsible for their caregiving often internalize this unresolved grief.

This is why I am proud to reintroduce the Divided Families Reunification Act with Congressman VAN TAYLOR, which requires the Secretary of State or a designee to consult with officials in South Korea on potential opportunities to reunite Korean American families with family members in North Korea. This bill will also require the Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights to submit a report on the opportunities for video reunions between Korean Americans and family members in North Korea.

I encourage all my colleagues to cosponsor this bipartisan bill, which unanimously passed the House of Representatives during the 116th Congress.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SHELDON ADELSON

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD an article honoring Sheldon Adelson, who was a truly great American. The following article, by Matt Brooks the Executive Director of the Republican Jewish Coalition, published in Newsweek on January 15, 2021, honors his incredible life and legacy.

Horatio Alger wrote rags-to-riches stories in the 1800s about poor boys who became wealthy through pluck, luck and good deeds. Sheldon Adelson did him one better, actually living a rags-to-riches story rooted in hard work, vision, courage—and good deeds. With Sheldon's passing, we have lost not only a remarkably successful business leader and an extraordinary philanthropist, but someone I was privileged to call a dear mentor and friend.

It is well known that Sheldon came from humble beginnings, as the child of immigrants living in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood. More than 80 years later, he still

viewed the world through the eyes of a poor kid from Dorchester. As one of the richest men in America, he could afford the finest wines and any luxury foods he desired. But those who knew him knew that the best time to meet with Sheldon was on Friday over lunch in his office, because that was his favorite day, when his staff would bring him hot dogs and sliders for lunch and he was sure to be in a good mood. He never lost his enjoyment for those kinds of simple things.

More than that, Sheldon never lost touch with people. Most of those who achieve his level of success spend a lot of money on staff to serve as buffers between them and other people. Sheldon didn't do that. At Republican Jewish Coalition events, people would be lined up 20- or 30-deep to say hello and take pictures with him. He obliged them, even in the middle of eating his dinner. He gave out his cell phone number freely and enjoyed being with people, talking to them and listening to them.

Sheldon was a serial entrepreneur who created dozens of companies over the years. He was often called a visionary leader, which is true, but he had more than just vision. Hard work and courageous confidence (or outrageous confidence, to your detractors) are required to achieve great things. Sheldon had a vision of Las Vegas as more than just a gambling town. He knew that bringing in trade shows and business conventions and offering grand resorts with the finest amenities and big, beautiful rooms would make Las Vegas a top destination for millions of people. When he began building The Venetian, he was mocked and called a fool. But he never lost confidence in his vision of what Las Vegas could be, and today everyone is copying his integrated resort model.

The same was true in Asia, where Sheldon saw glittering potential in Macau, then a seedy, prostitution-ridden city. He turned it into Asia's own Las Vegas, on land reclaimed from the sea. People called him crazy, but once again he had the courage of his convictions and he was proven right. His confidence in his own vision and his willingness to take risks to bring that vision to fruition were the keys to his success.

That success made it possible for him and his beloved wife, Dr. Miriam Adelson, to engage in substantial and meaningful philanthropy—in the Jewish community and beyond. The Adelsons have been the largest funders of Taglit-Birthright Israel and supported Yad Vashem, United Hatzalah and Friends of the Israel Defense Forces, among other organizations in Israel. They built a \$65 million campus in Las Vegas for the Milton I. Schwartz Hebrew Academy and Adelson School, which serves students from preschool through high school. In addition, their Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson Medical Research Foundation funds collaborative, cutting-edge medical research. Dr. Miriam Adelson has contributed enormously to drug addiction research and therapy, and the Adelsons built two major drug abuse treatment and research centers, in Las Vegas and in Israel.

The Adelsons have also extended tremendous kindness to friends and others in need. Sheldon showed the same compassion to his employees that he showed to everyone else. When COVID-19 hit, he refused to lay off his employees, and he continued to provide them with full pay and benefits throughout the pandemic.

Sheldon did what he thought was right, in business and in every other part of his life. If you wanted to argue with him, you had better know your stuff. Sheldon never got a college degree, but he was one of the smartest people I've ever known. He hated yes-men and respected people who were not intimidated by him or his wealth—people who would give him honest and sound counsel.

I have a very vivid memory of the first time I met Sheldon. I traveled to Las Vegas to tell him about the Republican Jewish Coalition (RJC) and try to get him involved in the organization. We had a wide-ranging conversation and, at one point, he asked me what I thought about something he'd said. I said I disagreed with him. You could have heard a pin drop in that room. Sheldon cocked his head and asked, "Why?" I answered him honestly, sure that I had lost all chance of getting him interested in the RJC, but he replied, "Yeah, I think you might be right." After that, Sheldon was very involved in the RJC and gave generously not only his money, but more importantly, his time and good counsel. Much of the RJC's innovation and impact over the last few years were made possible by his vision and leadership.

Sheldon was an American patriot, a dedicated defender of Israel and a living example of the American dream. His passing truly leaves an empty place where a vibrant, courageous and caring man once stood. He will be sorely missed.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary, on Homeland Security, on the Budget, and as the Member of Congress for a congressional district that has experienced the worst of COVID-19 as a public health emergency and economic catastrophe, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 11, 447, which reorders budgetary priorities to provide \$1.9 trillion to allow Congress to take immediate and decisive action to crush the virus and vaccinate our people, build the economy back better, reopen schools, and provide needed support and assistance to state and local governments that have been asked to do too much with too little for far too long.

Mr. Speaker, by an overwhelming margin (79 percent), the public wants and is demanding that we act to provide more economic relief to address the damage caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents believe an additional relief package is necessary, while more than nine in ten (92 percent) Democrats and Democratic leaners say more coronavirus aid will be needed.

Even the most conservative Republicans favor more relief by a 56 percent–44 percent margin.

Nearly nine in ten of all adults (88 percent) in lower-income households say an additional package is necessary, while 81 percent of Republicans in lower-income households (81 percent) say additional aid is needed now.

Let me make clear at the outset Mr. Speaker, that nothing in this resolution precludes the reaching of a bipartisan and bicameral agreement to pass and fund the President's America Rescue Plan, which in nearly all material respects mirrors the Heroes Act passed by the House Democratic majority on May 15, 2020, nearly nine months ago, only to languish on

the Republican Senate Majority Leader's desk while hundreds of thousands of our fellow Americans succumbed to the virus and millions of others lost their livelihoods and businesses, and everyone faced an uncertain future.

It would send a powerful signal to the American people if our colleagues across the aisle would join us in this effort because nothing would better show them that their elected representatives can set partisanship aside and put America first.

And that bipartisan achievement would portend success for similar initiatives in the area of infrastructure, energy, national and homeland security, and criminal justice and immigration reform, all of which I am ready and willing to reach across the aisle to find common ground.

So, if our Republican colleagues are amenable to reaching an agreement on a legislative response that is commensurate to the challenge facing Americans, nothing in the legislation before us will preclude that from happening.

But have no doubt, if they refuse to be part of the solution, the unified and bicameral Democratic congressional majority, in coordination with the new Democratic Administration, will take the lead and act boldly to address and overcome the present crisis.

I would urge my Republican colleagues to heed the words of Republican Governor Jim Justice of West Virginia who said colorfully just a few days ago, "At this point in time in this nation, we need to go big. We need to quit counting the egg-sucking legs on the cows and count the cows and just move. And move forward and move right now."

The same sentiment was expressed more eloquently by Abraham Lincoln in 1862 when he memorably wrote:

The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country.

Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan action we took last December was a step in the right direction but only a long-delayed down payment; we cannot afford any more delays, especially since Republican stalling already caused a painful lapse in critical unemployment assistance last year, and additional unemployment assistance is set to expire on March 14, 2021.

That is why this resolution, which creates a failsafe alternative so that the American Rescue Plan can be debated, voted on, and passed, is absolutely crucial and the right thing to do and to do right now.

The American Rescue Plan proposed by President Biden takes a multiprong approach to tackling the public health and economic crises stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

No one is better prepared or more experienced to lead the American rescue than President Biden, who as Vice-President oversaw the implementation of the Recovery Act, which saved millions of jobs and rescued our economy from the Great Recession the Obama Administration and the nation inherited from a previous Republican administration.

And let us not forget that President Obama also placed his confidence in his vice-president to oversee the rescue of the automotive industry, which he did so well that the American car industry fully recovered its status as the world leader.

Mr. Speaker, to crush the virus and safely reopen schools, the American Rescue Plan will mount a national vaccination program that includes setting up community vaccination sites nationwide and makes the investments necessary to safely reopen schools.

It will also take complementary measures to combat the virus, including scaling up testing and tracing, addressing shortages of personal protective equipment and other critical supplies, investing in high-quality treatments, and addressing health care disparities.

The American Rescue Plan delivers immediate relief to working families bearing the brunt of the crisis by providing \$1,400 per person in direct cash assistance to households across America, bringing the total (including the \$600 down payment enacted in December) to \$2,000.

Additionally, the plan will also provide direct housing and nutrition assistance to families struggling to get by, expand access to safe and reliable child care and affordable health care, extend and expand unemployment insurance so American workers can pay their bills, and give families with children as well as childless workers a boost through enhanced tax credits.

Mr. Speaker, the American Rescue Plan provides much needed support for communities struggling with the economic fallout, including hard-hit small businesses, especially those owned by entrepreneurs from racial and ethnic backgrounds that have experienced systemic discrimination.

Finally, the plan also provides crucial resources to protect the jobs of first responders, frontline public health workers, teachers, transit workers, and other essential workers that all Americans depend on.

Mr. Speaker, the COVID-19 pandemic, as did the videos of the unjustified killings of George Floyd, Breanna Taylor, Ahmed Arbre, and so many others, laid bare for the nation to see the stark racial and ethnic inequalities exacerbated by the virus.

In my home state of Texas, as of the end of September 2020, there have been more than 760,000 cases of COVID-19 and 16,000 deaths.

According to the Texas Department of State Health Care Services, 70 percent of the confirmed fatalities were people of color.

In Texas, COVID-19 mortality rates are 30 percent higher for African Americans and 80 percent higher for Hispanics overall.

The differences become much larger when accounting for age; for example, in the 25 to 44-year-old age group, African American mortality rates are more than four times higher than White rates, and the Hispanic rates are more than seven times higher.

One factor in Hispanic and African American populations being more likely to contract COVID-19 is employment in occupations associated with public contact and that cannot be done remotely.

The sad fact is that most workers in these occupations are less able to be absent from their job or to have paid time off.

In Texas, people of color are more than 40 percent of cashiers, retail salespersons, child care workers, licensed practical nurses, more than 50 percent of bus drivers and transit workers, medical and nursing assistants, personal care aides, and home health aides, and more than 60 percent of building cleaners and housekeepers.

In addition, Hispanic and African American populations in Texas are less likely to have health insurance and to have a regular health care provider, so less likely to seek or receive early care for symptoms, especially in the first months of the epidemic.

And African American and Hispanic populations are also more likely to have an underlying health condition that makes them more vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19.

To respond and mitigate the devastation wrought by COVID-19 on Americans, and especially marginal and vulnerable communities of color, I have introduced H.R. 330, the "Delivering COVID-19 Vaccinations to All Regions and Vulnerable Communities Act" or "COVID-19 Delivery Act," which I invite all Members to join as sponsors.

Under the COVID-19 Delivery Act, FEMA will be authorized and directed to lead the effort for vaccine delivery from the receipt from manufacturing facilities to delivery to designated inoculation sites (hospital, clinic, doctors' offices, school, places of worship, community centers, parks, or neighborhood gathering locations).

The legislation directs FEMA to develop and deploy a fully staffed and resourced 24-7 advanced real-time tracking system that allows FEMA to monitor shipments of vaccine units that can provide end-to-end transparency on the temperature, real-time location, origin, and destination data, anticipated time of arrival, and report on changes and update recipients on the progress of their delivery and report on changes that may impact expected delivery or the viability of the vaccine while in transit.

FEMA will provide an advanced communication system that allows public health departments to communicate their vaccine readiness, capability of receiving vaccines, delivery locations, details of facility capability of storing, securing, personnel authorized to receive deliveries, logistics for delivering vaccines to patients, report on vaccine receipts, condition of vaccines, patient reactions, feedback on how to improve the process.

H.R. 330 authorizes FEMA to secure transportation for delivery or use of vaccines, and, when requested, security for the vaccine delivery sites or inoculation locations to ensure the life and safety of personnel and patients who seek to provide or receive vaccinations are free of interference or threat.

Finally, the COVID-19 Delivery Act directs FEMA to conduct public education and patient engagement through the provision of inoculations of persons in areas and locations where vulnerable populations are under performing in getting vaccinations.

Mr. Speaker, the 2021 budget resolution before us now is not a comprehensive fiscal blueprint for the next 10 years; it is designed solely to provide the option of using reconciliation to deliver critical relief and achieve the goals of the American Rescue Plan.

As such, the total spending and revenue levels in the resolution simply reflect current-law projections adjusted for the estimated costs of the American Rescue Plan.

Once the American Rescue Plan becomes law, Congress will begin its work on a forward-looking, comprehensive budget resolution for 2022 that will provide urgently needed economic support and address longstanding deficits in our communities and underlying inequities in our society, which have been so starkly revealed and exacerbated by COVID-19.

I strongly support this legislation and urge all Members to join me in voting for its passage.

[Oct. 14, 2020]

HALF OF TEXAS FACE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP BECAUSE OF CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, SURVEY FINDS

(By Nataly Keomoungkhoun)

According to the Episcopal Health Foundation survey, Black and Hispanic people are much more likely to be concerned about another wave of COVID-19.

Half of Texans are experiencing some kind of financial hardship because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, a new survey finds.

The survey, conducted by the Episcopal Health Foundation, highlights how the pandemic affects people across the state with different household incomes and races, with and without health insurance, and other factors. Nearly 1,900 Texans were surveyed.

"From being uninsured to not having internet access for online school, Texans say these nonmedical factors are not only shaping how they're dealing with the pandemic; they also could be seriously affecting their future health in many different ways," said Elena Marks, CEO of the foundation.

Roughly 22% of Texas residents are facing "severe hardship," the survey found, and an additional 28% are facing "moderate hardship."

Those with less than \$50,000 in household income were more likely to experience financial distress than those making more than \$50,000, according to the survey. A third of the people surveyed said someone in their home had lost a job or business or had work hours reduced.

Those deemed essential workers make up about 34% of Texans, the survey found. About 43% of essential workers are Hispanic, 38% are white and 10% are Black. According to the survey, those who hold essential jobs are more likely to receive government assistance such as food aid and Medicaid, and they are less likely to have health insurance.

Medical care has been postponed or skipped altogether by 36% of people since the start of the pandemic, the survey found. Most said their mental health was good, but 46% were worried about the effects of pandemic-related stress on their health.

Texas continues to have the highest rate of people in the nation without health insurance, with 29% saying they lack coverage.

The survey asked whether Texans were bracing for a worsening of the COVID-19 outbreak. Overall, less than half said they were very concerned about another wave. But roughly 73% of Black Texans and 55% of Hispanic Texans said they were very concerned about another wave, compared with about 33% of white Texans.

A majority did not think the federal government was very prepared for another wave of COVID-19.

"These stark differences in concerns about the future show that COVID-19 is hitting Black and Hispanic Texans harder than anyone else," Marks said. "These groups are seeing more deaths and serious complications from the virus because they're more likely to already suffer chronic conditions related to where they live that make them more susceptible."

Nearly 75% of surveyed Texans said they received financial assistance from the federal government in the form of unemployment benefits, small-business loans and direct stimulus payments. One-fourth said they also received assistance from programs such as STAR Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. Most Texans who receive these benefits are Black or Hispanic, the survey found.

About 18% of people said they had received help from a nonprofit organization, and 13% said they had received food from a local food bank during the pandemic.

"This kind of information is crucial to letting government and other recovery efforts know what Texans need to recover from the pandemic," Marks said. "We hope it helps make good decisions about how to reach those most in need with the help they need the most."

[From the Texas Tribune, Oct. 8, 2020]

"WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE": TEXANS SAY FEDERAL LEADERS' INACTION ON A NEW CORONA VIRUS AID PACKAGE IS ENDANGERING THEIR LIVELIHOODS

(By Dan Rosenzweig-Ziff and Trinady Joslin)

Texas business owners and unemployed residents feel like federal leaders of both parties are playing political games with their financial lives in the middle of a damaging recession.

Jacque Miles is three weeks away from losing everything—her home, her utilities and even the cellphone service she relies on to apply for five to six jobs a day.

The 54-year-old Myra resident was let go from her job at a merchandising agency in April and, like millions of Texans, has been watching Congress to see if it'll pass another federal relief package to help her make ends meet during the pandemic and its parallel economic recession.

But federal lawmakers and President Donald Trump have failed for months during a heated election year to reach a deal on a bill that could provide millions of Texans with a second \$1,200 stimulus check, additional unemployment benefits and more loans for small business owners hanging on by a thread.

"They all get to go home to their nice big house and eat their nice big meal," Miles said of the federal officials and lawmakers who have been working on a deal. "And I'm eating macaroni and cheese for the 10th time this week. How can that be happening?"

It's been a dizzying few days for Texans waiting to see if more assistance will come. Trump deflated hopes that an agreement would be reached soon when he tweeted Tuesday that he'd told his negotiators to halt discussions until after the Nov. 3 election. Later that evening, he seemingly walked back that request, calling for stand-alone bills funding specific programs, which U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi signaled she would not support.

Then on Thursday, according to media reports, Trump said talks had resumed. Pelosi's deputy chief of staff said she and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin discussed the prospects of reaching an agreement on a comprehensive bill. And on Friday, it appeared that the talks for a large relief package were back on.

But it is still not known if or when anything will pass, leaving struggling Texans to continue scraping by with no clear end in sight.

Miles likened the ever-changing developments to an "exhausting" tennis match.

"I'm just so disappointed with the government in general," she said. "Not any particular party, just the government in general. It's just so sad."

As families struggle to keep their water running and business owners pull in heavy losses, Texans are "heartbroken" and angry with the federal government's lack of support.

Workers and business owners said they feel like those in charge are playing games with their livelihoods and are out of touch with the people they represent at the same time that many of them are seeking their votes.

The prospects of a deal after the expiration of the CARES Act at the end of July has

been a political football for months. Democrats have proposed a \$2.2 trillion dollar package, which would bring back an additional \$600 in weekly unemployment payments, according to media reports. The White House has countered with a \$1.6 trillion dollar plan with \$400 in extra weekly unemployment, though it's unclear congressional Republicans would pass such a bill.

Both sides appear to agree on sending out another round of \$1,200 stimulus checks, which were first sent to people making \$75,000 or less this spring.

Further delay of any federal deal could also shutter more businesses, lead to evictions and cause permanent job losses for millions, according to various industry leaders. With reduced indoor capacity, economic hardships hitting their customers and colder weather soon threatening outdoor dining, no additional stimulus deal could be catastrophic for restaurants.

According to Texas Restaurant Association President and CEO Emily Williams Knight, 15% of Texas' 50,000 restaurants have already closed their doors permanently. With no stimulus plan, another 10% could close before the year ends, she said.

She's received countless calls from restaurant owners in tears because, after pouring years into their dream business, they had to shut down everything.

"It felt like a gut punch that the potential relief is officially done," said Knight. "Eight weeks of help for a seven month problem seems incredibly unreasonable."

"NO TIME TO BE PLAYING POLITICAL GAMES"

J.R. Gonzales, a top executive at the Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce, said the lack of federal support has hit Hispanic Texans—who have disproportionately contracted and died from the virus—particularly hard.

"The back and forth to me is just political jockeying and a waste of time," he said, adding that he holds elected officials of both parties responsible for this failure, a sentiment held by most Texans who spoke to The Texas Tribune about a potential new relief package.

Gonzales said the Hispanic community he represents has a large number of small business owners, some of whom are struggling to stay open. Many of their customers are out of work or risk their lives to fill essential jobs.

"This is no time to be playing political games," Gonzales said. "Hispanic business owners and workers need these grants to put food on the table."

One such business is Beijing Bistro, which Janette Martinez, 25, took over from her father, Eddie, when he had a stroke in April. With \$250,000 in medical bills—Eddie does not have insurance—on top of the challenges of running the restaurant in Buda, Martinez feels like she's drinking water from a fire hose.

She's never run a business before and paused her plans to return to college and study business management to schedule shifts for cooks, manage the books and keep the family business afloat. The \$80,000 she received from the Paycheck Protection Program loans, which are now dwindling, allowed her to pay all her staff.

Still, Martinez has no idea if she's breaking even or losing money and works every hour the restaurant is open six days a week. On her birthday next week, her biggest wish for a celebration is just to get a day off. And see her dad.

"We're all just trying to survive as best we can out here," she said. "The longer they take choosing whether or not to pass the stimulus, the more dire the situation will become."

She, too, holds both parties responsible for failing to pass a plan.

Washington's inaction has made restaurant owners feel like they don't matter, Knight said.

"It was a lot of theatrics so they could go back to their constituents and demonstrate that they acted and it was someone else's fault," she said.

ECONOMIC ISSUES SPAN INDUSTRIES

Many of the issues restaurants face extend to industries across the state.

Ebele Iloanye, the owner of the retail store MODChic Couture in Sugar Land, has lost 70% in revenue over the last few months of the pandemic. Though she's kept up with her rent for now, largely with the help of her \$11,000 PPP loan, she's cut many of her employees.

A second stimulus package would ensure she could continue to pay her rent—and bring back the workers she's been unable to pay for months. That would mean they could then pay their bills as well.

"Things are bad all around, everybody can see it and we're just trying to survive," Iloanye said. "We're doing our part, and I really hope that they would now do theirs."

Iloanye did not cast blame on Trump specifically—though his tweets were the most recent example of what many consider political posturing—but said that all Washington politicians are to blame for this failure to do the job they were elected to do. Eddie Aldrete, the national affairs committee chair of the Texas Association of Business, agreed.

"Texas businesses are doing their best to weather this pandemic and help our state and nation recover," he said. "We can't do it alone, and we are hopeful that leaders in Washington can finally, for once, find common ground to provide a stimulus and relief package."

Miles said she just wants a reprieve. While she voted for Trump in 2016, she feels like neither party is willing to bend and offer people help. After more than seven months of seeing disaster everywhere she looks, she's struggling to stay optimistic.

Earlier this week, she said if the presidential vote was tomorrow, she would choose Biden. But on Thursday, after even more dizzying developments, she said if the election was tomorrow, she'd just stay home.

"It's hard to find a happy spot," she said. "It gets harder every day."

[From the Texas Tribune, Feb. 1, 2021]

10 MONTHS INTO PANDEMIC, TEXAS' UNEMPLOYMENT RATE STAYS NEAR GREAT RECESSION-LEVEL HIGHS

(By Anna Novak and Mitchell Ferman)

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Texas' unemployment rate was 7.2% in December, up from 3.5% in December 2019.

SALES TAX REVENUES

In January, Texas collected \$3.1 billion in sales tax revenues, down 0.3% from January 2020.

Business shutdowns and limits on their operations through the coronavirus pandemic have battered Texas companies, which are now grappling with another devastating surge in infections as intensive care units at dozens of hospitals across the state are full.

Entire industries—bars and restaurants, tourism and travel, oil and gas—continue to struggle.

The unemployment rate in Texas decreased to 7.2% in December, more than double the rate of 3.5% a year earlier. Hungry and homeless Texans have been confused about the prospect of more federal coronavirus relief while the state's outdated and understaffed unemployment insurance office has

left countless Texans struggling to receive unemployment benefits as they navigate the Texas Workforce Commission's confusing processes.

A decline in Texas' sales tax revenues—the largest source of funding for the state budget—has created a shortfall that lawmakers will have to fill in the 2021 legislative session. Economists say weakened global demand for oil, high unemployment and the ongoing public health crisis will continue to weigh down Texas' economic recovery.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECREASED IN
DECEMBER

Texas' unemployment rate in December was 7.2%—a decrease from the 8.1% November jobless rate, according to a Texas Workforce Commission report released Jan. 22. The state's unemployment rate for December is the latest indicator that the economic recovery in Texas will be slow and staggered.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE
AND LEGACY OF WILLIAM "RED"
LEWIS

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a remarkable man: William "Red" Lewis. A Green Bay native and successful businessman, Red Lewis personified the entrepreneurial spirit generosity Northeast Wisconsin is known for.

Born in 1942, Red was the youngest of four children. He attended Premontre High School (later to become Notre Dame de la Baie Academy) and graduated in 1960. After multiple jobs in the Green Bay area, Red began his career at the local PDQ car wash, working his way up to manager in 1967. Seeing an avenue to improve PDQ's cleanliness and efficiency, Red bought the business in 1974.

To enhance PDQ's customer experience, Red founded PDQ Manufacturing. His leadership drove PDQ into becoming the world's largest touchless car wash manufacturer with clients in over 30 countries. In recognition of his innovation and contribution to the industry, Red was inducted into the Car Wash Hall of Fame in 2000 by the International Carwash Association.

Beyond his business success, Red was well-known in the community for his kind heart and extensive philanthropy. He was deeply dedicated to giving back to a community that has supported him. He was particularly fond of supporting the Green Bay Boys & Girls Club, the Lac Baie Girl Scout Council, Catholic Charities, Manna for Life Ministries, NEW Zoo and St. Willebroed Parish. He was also generous to his alma mater, Notre Dame de la Baie Academy, and local veterans organizations.

Red also had a passion for collecting cars, and in 2016 gifted the Green Bay community with The Automobile Gallery. This nonprofit is a beautiful addition to Green Bay's downtown whose collection of more than 120 automobiles spans 113 years. It boasts a 1912 Maxwell, 1963 Corvette, and 1982 DeLorean DMC-12, among many other restored models. Visitors from across the state come to Green Bay to enjoy the gallery which has quickly become a cherished community treasure.

Madam Speaker, words cannot adequately thank Red for his extraordinary commitment to

the Green Bay community. His passing will be mourned by many across Northeast Wisconsin. My prayers and condolences go out to his family and to all the lives he touched.

RECOGNIZING CAREN COWAN

HON. YVETTE HERRELL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Ms. HERRELL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize a New Mexican who has been a tireless advocate for our farmers, ranchers, and the families who work every day to provide for America. Caren Cowan is not only a friend of mine, but of the hardworking New Mexicans who she stands up for every day. As the 2020 Cattleman of the Year and for a lifetime of service, Ms. Cowan deserves our appreciation.

After graduating from Arizona University in 1975 with a degree in Agriculture Communications, Caren worked for the Arizona National Livestock Show, the American Red Brangus Association in Texas, and the New Mexico Wool Growers. She has served as the Executive Director for the New Mexico Cattle Growers since 1997 where she fights to protect the rights of livestock producers and ensure their voices are always heard on every issue. She has taken on battles in the courtroom, tackled the often burdensome statutory and regulatory requirements head on, and successfully navigated the bureaucracies' often confusing rules and regulations, something not easily done. For 23 years Caren has been at the forefront of these issues and has worked tirelessly on behalf of the organization's members.

As a leader on the issues facing the farmers and ranchers of New Mexico, Ms. Cowan is training the next generation of advocates to ensure the New Mexico's agricultural families always have a voice. We are forever grateful for her work and dedication to the state we love.

MR. AND MRS. ORESTUS AND
GERALDINE FLOWERS

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. and Mrs. Orestus and Geraldine Flowers of Burkesville for recently celebrating their 75th anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Flowers have displayed commitment in all facets of their life. At twenty-two years of age, Mr. Flowers left his then-girlfriend, Geraldine, to serve in the Army for three-and-a-half-years during World War II. Mr. Flowers kept a picture of Geraldine in his wallet during the war, and upon returning, married Geraldine on February 1, 1946. Mr. and Mrs. Flowers displayed an exemplary level of commitment to both each other and our nation through his military service.

Mr. and Mrs. Flowers raised their family in Cumberland County, Kentucky. They and their three daughters, four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren have been a staple in the community of Burkesville. Mr. Flowers

has served in numerous capacities in the local community. In 1952, he brought Houchens Market to Burkesville, where he served as manager for 32 years. After retiring from Houchens, he has continued work at Norris and New Funeral Home, where he is still showing off the picture of his wife that he took to war with him seventy-eight years ago.

Once again, I would like to join everyone in Burkesville and throughout the 1st District of Kentucky in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Flowers on this extraordinary milestone.

HONORING VETERANS DURING
NATIONAL SALUTE WEEK

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to veterans cared for by the Department of Veterans Affairs in northeast Indiana and across the United States.

Each year, the week of February 14 is an opportunity for Americans to express their collective gratitude for the more than 9 million veterans of the United States Armed Services who are cared for in the VA system. This year's National Salute Week is the most important one to date, given the difficult times our nation has faced over the last 12 months with many of America's veterans hardest hit.

This week also serves as an opportunity for Hoosiers and Americans everywhere to learn about the role of the VA medical system, to encourage citizens to visit hospitalized Veterans and to become involved as volunteers Nationwide, over 61,000 volunteers provide more than 9.2 million volunteer hours serving America's veterans. Volunteers are a priceless asset to our veterans, to the VA and to the country.

As a veteran myself and member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee in Congress, I am honored to have served in uniform and to serve the people of northeast Indiana in Congress. One of my top priorities has been, and always will be, ensuring those who served the United States receive the honor, care, and opportunity they deserve.

This is a testament to the honor and sacrifice of those heroes who have served our country, and to those who serve them.

HONORING JOE LAROCO

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Joseph Charles LaRocco of Salem, Virginia, who passed away on January 17, 2021 at the age of 67. Joe was a longtime coach and educator in Roanoke County who encouraged students and athletes toward excellence.

Joe was born in Schenectady, New York on October 28, 1953. He grew up in Roanoke, graduated from Andrew Lewis High School in 1972, and graduated from Roanoke College in 1976. As a young man, he attained the rank of Eagle Scout and was a standout track and field and cross country athlete, eventually

earning induction into the Roanoke College Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998. To the benefit of many young people in the Roanoke Valley, these activities would remain important to him for the rest of his life.

After coaching at Bassett High School from 1978 to 1980, he arrived at Cave Spring High School to teach American history and government and coach boys and girls outdoor track and field, indoor track, and cross country. He loved the topic of American history as well as local stories of the past, portraying western Virginia founding father Andrew Lewis on a number of occasions.

As a student, Joe set several school cross country or track and field records, and as a coach for a combined 31 seasons, he stood out as well. In 1980, he helped David Garlow win the Virginia High School League (VHSL) Group AAA boys cross country individual championship. He also coached future National Football League players Ronde and Tiki Barber. His record at Cave Spring earned him six coach of the year honors.

Joe retired from teaching in 2013, but he continued as a USA Track & Field and VHSL official and participated in the Star City Striders, a local running group. He was also on the Eagle Scout Board of Review. I shared several interests with Joe and join with many in the Roanoke Valley who will miss this outstanding educator and coach and good man. He is survived by his wife Terry; daughters and sons-in-law Jackie and John Downs and Cathy LaRocco and Jeff Black; granddaughter Brigid Downs; and brothers Jim LaRocco and wife Sharon and John LaRocco. I offer them my condolences on their loss.

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF BILL MARDIS

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of my beloved friend, Bill Mardis, who was the longtime editor of the Commonwealth Journal in Somerset, Kentucky.

Though small in stature, Bill Mardis was a journalism giant in Somerset, wielding a mighty pen, a humble approach and a steel-trap mind. We first became friends in the 1970s, with shared roots in radio broadcasting and a zeal for history and politics. Our friendship never swayed Bill from asking tough questions and writing an occasional hard-hitting piece; still yet we maintained a mutual respect for one another at all times. He was a dearly loved, iconic member of the Lake Cumberland region and his life's work kept all of us more informed. If a story had heart and soul, it was undoubtedly penned by Mardis. His signature "Humble Reporter" satire series also provided much-needed comic relief to the seri-

ous nature of the daily news covering the rest of the pages. In person, Bill also brought a unique and jovial interview style to every situation, while remaining fair, straight-forward and balanced through-out his career spanning nearly six decades.

Bill was known for his stellar work ethic, often putting in 12-hour work days to publish an accurate, reputable newspaper. In recent years, our interviews would occasionally linger an hour or more as we drifted off topic and reminisced about our mutual friends and mentors who were instrumental to the growth and progress in southern Kentucky, from the late U.S. Sen. John Sherman Cooper to the late Pulaski Circuit Judge Roscoe Tartar, and others. He kept a tight grip on the political pulse of the Lake Cumberland region, cultivating a trusted network of friends across party lines, lending to his rich, in-depth reporting.

May his legacy of balanced and fair journalism live on at the Commonwealth Journal where he dedicated nearly 60 years with the utmost integrity. My wife Cynthia and I send our heartfelt condolences to Bill's family, his coworkers at the newspaper, and his expansive community of friends. In the words of our satirical Humble Reporter, "I ain't never seed nothin' lak hit" and I don't suspect we ever will again.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF PEORIA POLICE CHIEF LOREN MARION III

HON. DARIN LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor and congratulate Police Chief Loren Marion III on his retirement from the Peoria Police Department after 26 years.

Loren Marion was hired as a Police Officer by the City of Peoria on October 3, 1994. During his career, he worked in Patrol, on the Community Area Target Team, the Street Crimes Unit, the Vice and Narcotics Unit, and the Target Offender Unit. Chief Marion also held the collateral duty of Task Force Officer with the Drug Enforcement Administration. On November 14, 2018, he was selected as Police Chief of the Peoria Police Department. Before working for the City, Chief Marion also served on active duty with the Army Military Police.

During his time with the Peoria Police Department, Chief Marion has been recognized with numerous awards and accolades for his service and exemplary professional performance. In 2008, Loren was named "Officer of the Year" and awarded the American Legion Meritorious Service Award. Chief Marion was known for his dedication to his fellow officers and he established an Officer Wellness program that provides peer to peer support as well as a Police Chaplain that assists officers who have been exposed to trauma.

In May of 2019, under Chief Marion's leadership, the Peoria Police Department became fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies due to the improvement of community and police relations, policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services.

Chief Marion has always been committed to his work and his community. It is my privilege to congratulate Chief Marion on his service to the Peoria Police Department. We have all been blessed to have Chief Marion serving and protecting us. The City of Peoria is a better place because of his service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD S. PEPPER

HON. DARIN LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor and remember the life of Richard Pepper, who passed away peacefully on January 28, 2021, at the age of 90.

Born in Barrington, Illinois in 1930, Richard, at an early age, displayed natural gravitation towards construction and philanthropy. Richard began his career working as an estimator for Pepper Construction in 1957. Soon after marrying his beloved wife, Roxy, Richard assumed leadership of the company after the sudden passing of his father, Stanley Pepper. Despite his young age, Richard showed the maturity and inclination to grow and foster the company and the ideals that his father had implemented. Under Richard's leadership, Pepper Construction strived to ensure their building decisions impacted the future to create a better quality of life for all.

Richard grew Pepper Construction into the nationally recognized construction firm known by so many across the Midwest. Richard held several leadership positions in the construction industry, including serving as president of the Associated General Contractors of America in 1983. He received the Jack Kinnaman Leadership Award from the American Institute of Constructors in 2015, which honors corporation leaders who have taken a visible leadership role in the American Institute of Constructors.

Richard's leadership at Pepper Construction has fostered a corporate culture that promotes community and industry involvement. During his time, Richard was well-known for his outspoken support of community improvement, advocating for bold initiatives, and striving to transform tomorrow.

We mourn the passing of Richard, a friend, and mentor to many. He left a lasting impact on those who had the pleasure of knowing him. May his memory be eternal.